



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

A quorum of the Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the District's office at 8656A W. Highway 71, Suite 224, Austin, Texas 78735. The meeting was open to the public and a videoconference remote participation option was provided, instructions for accessing the remote videoconference were provided with the Public Notice of Meeting.

1. **Call to order, declare meeting open to the public, take roll and declare quorum status** – President Scadden called the public meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 10, 2022. Six directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum, including President Scadden, Director Norton, Director Hunt, Director Davis, Director Urie, and Director Van Ackeren. Also present were General Manager Lane Cockrell and Virginia Smith. The following individuals participated remotely by videoconference call: Audrey Cooper and Cole Ruiz with Lloyd Gosselink, Natalie Ballew with the Texas Water Development Board ("TWDB"), and Director Hennings participated remotely as a member of the public.
2. **Public Comments** – No public comments were presented.
3. **Discuss and possibly act on approving previous meeting minutes** – President Scadden presented the minutes for the July 20, 2022 regular board meeting for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Director Davis to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2022 regular board meeting. Motion seconded by Director Van Ackeren. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.
4. **General Manager's Report:**
  - a. **Summary of permitting, application, and registration inquiries and submissions** –General Manager Cockrell provided an update on the permit applications and well registrations submitted to the District. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District received four (4) new well registrations during the month of July, and eleven (11) new well drilling authorization applications. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District did not receive any new operating permit or general permit applications during the month of July. General Manager Cockrell reported that meter readings for the month of July show a total of 19,347,490 gallons produced, or 59.4 acre-feet. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District did not receive any new water service connections during the month of July. General Manager Cockrell reported that Aqua Texas submitted sixty-two (62) water service connections to the District for outstanding service connections since October 2020, and the District is waiting to receive payment for the outstanding service connection fees.
  - b. **Drought stage status and outlook** – General Manager Cockrell reported that drought conditions in Travis County are expected to persist through the end of October according to



the U.S. Drought Monitor. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District is still in the D3 Drought Stage.

- c. **Regulatory items and updates related to TWDB, TCEQ, GMAs, and other organizations** – General Manager Cockrell reported that the next GMA 9 meeting will be held on August 15, 2022 at the Cow Creek GCD office in Boerne, Texas. General Manager Cockrell reported that he plans to attend the GMA 9 meeting and to request a remote participation option for the public. General Manager Cockrell reported that the deadline to complete the required cybersecurity awareness training is August 31, 2022. General Manager Cockrell reported that he filed copies of the District’s financial audits for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020 with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
  - d. **Overview of current District groundwater monitoring program** – General Manager Cockrell provided an overview of the District’s monitoring network to the Board. General Manager Cockrell displayed a map showing the location of the District’s monitoring sites throughout the District. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District collects data from eight (8) wells drilled into the Lower Trinity Aquifer, and twenty (20) wells drilled into the Middle Trinity Aquifer located throughout the District. President Scadden raised the possibility of the District establishing a new monitoring well closer to the City of Lakeway, as the District doesn’t currently have any monitoring sites in that part of Travis County. General Manager Cockrell reported that he is working with a landowner in that area to convert an old groundwater well into a monitoring well for the District. General Manager Cockrell presented a graph of monitoring data taken from the St. Stephen’s Monitoring Well from January 2019 to present.
  - e. **Other items of interest not requiring Board action** – General Manager Cockrell reported that Travis County plans to hold a pre-development meeting with a developer regarding a proposed glamping and residential development project planned on Hamilton Pool Road. General Manager Cockrell reported that the 2022 Texas Groundwater Summit will be held in San Antonio, Texas from August 30 to September 1, 2022. General Manager Cockrell reported that the Westcave Groundwater Roundtable is scheduled for Thursday, September 22 at Westcave Preserve. President Scadden reported that the Hill Country Alliance leadership summit is scheduled for September 29, 2022.
5. **Receive, discuss, and take action as necessary on Board Committee Reports:**
- a. **Finance** – This agenda item was taken out of order due to time constraints. Director Urie provided a report to the Board regarding the financial reports dated July 31, 2022. The balance sheet indicated assets totaling \$122,611.71 and liabilities totaling \$6,699.32. The fiscal year to date profit and loss report indicated expenses totaling \$160,468.71, gross profit totaling \$219,504.17, and net income totaling \$59,035.46 through August 6, 2022. Director Urie provided a summary of the checks issued by the District since the last board meeting, a summary of expenses by vendor, and a fiscal year to date summary of expenses by budgetary line item. President Scadden requested that the Board approve the transfer of \$6,100.00 to the District’s reserve fund. A motion was made by President Scadden to transfer \$6,100.00



from the District's general fund to the District's reserve fund. Motion seconded by Director Urie. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

General Manager Cockrell reported that the Board Budget Committee raised the question of reaching out to auditors to obtain quotes for the District's fiscal year 2021 and fiscal year 2022 financial audits. General Manager Cockrell reported that he is waiting to receive quotes from several auditors in the District, and that the Board Budget Committee will report back regarding the quotes in September.

- b. **Legislative** – Director Davis reported that the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (“TAGD”) legislative meeting will be held on August 10, 2022, to discuss upcoming legislation regarding groundwater. Director Davis reported that she can attend future TAGD legislative meetings on behalf of the District to monitor important legislative updates. Director Davis reported that the Texas House Natural Resources Committee will hold hearings on August 23, 2022 and August 24, 2022 in Austin, Texas to discuss the committee's water-related interim charges, including groundwater-related matters. Director Davis also encouraged members of the Board to attend the 2022 Texas Groundwater Summit hosted by TAGD as multiple members of the Texas Legislature will be in attendance.
  - c. **Science & Outreach** – General Manager Cockrell reported that the District's website received 808 unique visits during the month of July. Director Hennings reported that the City of Westlake National Night Out will be held on October 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., and that the District has set-up a booth at this event in the past. President Scadden reported that the Texas Water Coalition is trying to encourage the Lower Colorado River Authority (“LCRA”) to update its water management plan, and that the Texas Water Coalition is seeking support from governmental entities. President Scadden reported that both Travis County and the City of Bee Cave have passed resolutions supporting the Texas Water Coalition's efforts. President Scadden reported that the City of Bee Cave City Council appointed him to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Bee Cave. President Scadden reported that the Board may consider adopting a resolution in support of the Texas Water Coalition's efforts as well, and raised the possibility of the District joining the Texas Water Coalition.
6. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to presentation by TWDB staff regarding joint planning process** – This agenda item was taken out of order due to time constraints. President Scadden introduced Natalie Ballew, TWDB Groundwater Technical Assistance. Natalie Ballew provided a presentation to the Board regarding the joint planning process and GMA 9 and provided suggestions for increased stakeholder participation and engagement during the joint planning process. Natalie Ballew reported that the State of Texas' preferred groundwater management method is groundwater conservation districts and reported that each district is located within a groundwater management area. Natalie Ballew reported that districts in each management area are required to participate in joint planning and to propose and adopt new or amended desired future conditions (“DFCs”) for the aquifers located within the management area. Natalie Ballew reported that DFCs are used to determine future groundwater availability, and may be related to drawdown, spring flow, subsidence, or storage volume. Natalie Ballew provided an overview of the steps taken by groundwater management areas during the



joint planning process for the Board. Director Hunt thanked Natalie Ballew for her presentation and asked what issues may impact GMA 9 if the Districts decide to establish refined DFCs for certain areas of the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County. Natalie Ballew stated that establishing more refined DFCs could be beneficial for the District's monitoring efforts of the Trinity Aquifer, but that the District would need to meet with the other representatives for GMA 9 and discuss setting carved out DFCs. President Scadden requested that Natalie Ballew provide an update on the timeline for TWDB's development of the groundwater availability model for the Hill Country portion of the Trinity Aquifer. Natalie Ballew reported that the TWDB is working to develop a regional model of the Edwards-Trinity Plateau Aquifer to be released in Fall of 2022, and that the groundwater availability model for the Hill Country portion of the Trinity Aquifer should be available by the end of 2023. No action taken.

7. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to implementing District Rules** – General Manager Cockrell reported that he is working with Aqua Texas to bring their systems into compliance with the District Rules. General Manager Cockrell reported that both Aqua Texas systems have submitted all their outstanding reporting forms for meter readings and water service connections. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District is still waiting to receive payment for outstanding connection fees from Aqua Texas, and that he has forwarded invoices to Aqua Texas for payment of outstanding production fees and water service connection fees. General Manager Cockrell reported that staff have become aware of several wells in the District that are not registered or permitted, and that staff are working to reach out to those well owners. No action taken.
8. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to District drought stage status** – General Manager Cockrell presented updated drought severity data for Travis County to the Board and reported that the District remains in the D3 Stage of drought intensity. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District Rules require a 30% voluntary reduction in groundwater production for exempt wells and general permits, and a 30% mandatory curtailment of quarterly permitted groundwater use under the D3 Drought Stage. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District's website and press releases have included recommended groundwater use reduction measures. Director Davis raised the question of whether the District has printed signs regarding the drought stage yet. General Manager Cockrell reported that he is working to have signs printed for each drought stage. President Scadden raised the question of whether permittees are required to submit documentation to the District reflecting their curtailment of groundwater use. President Scadden raised the possibility of asking permittees to voluntarily report their compliance with the District's drought stage water conservation measures. No action taken.
9. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to FY2022 and FY2023 Interlocal Agreements with Travis County** – General Manager Cockrell reported that Travis County has published its preliminary budget for fiscal year 2023, and that the preliminary budget includes \$250,000.00 earmarked for the District, including \$100,000 requested for a regional groundwater study. General Manager Cockrell provided the following information regarding the proposed regional groundwater study: Clearwater UWCD in Bell County has developed a 3D hydrogeologic model to support their management and permitting decisions. General Manager Cockrell reported that the proposed study would expand Clearwater's hydrogeologic model into Williamson and Travis Counties to improve the collective understanding of groundwater resources in central Texas and to support management efforts and permitting decisions in the District. General Manager Cockrell reported that Vicky Kennedy at Travis County, representatives

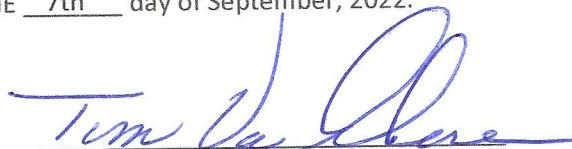




from the District and Clearwater UWCD, and the hydrogeologic consultant who will conduct the study plan to schedule a meeting to discuss details of the proposed study. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District received payment for its June invoice from Travis County, and that he is currently working to complete an invoice for the District's July expenses. No action taken.

10. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to District budget for FY 2023** – President Scadden reported that the District Budget Committee met to develop a draft budget for fiscal year 2023 and presented a copy of the draft budget to the Board for review. President Scadden reported that the Board will hold a public hearing in September to discuss and consider adopting the final budget and the fee schedule for fiscal year 2023. General Manager Cockrell requested that the Board provide feedback and any requested edits to the District Budget Committee before the next regular meeting.
11. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to District hydrogeologic consultant** – President Scadden reported that he and General Manager Cockrell met with staff for Intera and requested that they prepare an initial scope of work, budget, and schedule for their evaluation of the Mirasol permit application. General Manager Cockrell reported that he expects to receive Intera's scope of work by the end of the week. No action taken.
12. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to adopting District policies** – President Scadden reported that the District is required by Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code to adopt a code of ethics, a travel expenditure policy, a financial accounting and budgeting policy, a professional services policy, and a management policy. General Manager Cockrell reported that other districts throughout the state adopt stand-alone policies to meet these requirements, even if elements of these policies are addressed in the district's bylaws. General Manager Cockrell reported that he will develop draft policies for the Board to review. General Manager Cockrell reported that copies of the final adopted policies will be posted to the District's webpage. No action taken.
13. **Discuss and establish possible agenda items for future Board Meetings** – President Scadden requested that agenda items be added to discuss the fiscal year 2023 budget and fee schedule.
14. **Discuss and possibly act on setting the date, time, and location for the next Board Meeting** – President Scadden reported that the next regular board meeting will be held on September 7, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the District's office.
15. **Adjourn** – A motion was made by Director Davis to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m. Motion seconded by Director Van Ackeren. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS THE 7th day of September, 2022.

  
Tim Van Ackeren, Secretary